GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:314
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2003
AVAILABILITY OF GAS FOR PRODUCTION OF FERTILIZERS
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) total gas reserves available in the country and its consumption in producing fertilizers for the year and the period during which it is likely to last at the present rate of consumption;

(b) whether it is a fact that coal bed methane has been found both around Durgapur and Sindri;

(c) if so, the details thereof and its scope in making fertilizer;

(d) whether the Government is aware that this coal bed methane is being used in an experimental plant which has been established at Palgoria in Bokaro District; and

(e) if so, details thereof alongwith the steps taken to use the gas for producing fertilizers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA)

(a) to (e): A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred QuestionNo. 314 to be answered on 23.12.2003 regarding availability of gas for production of fertilizers.

(a): Balance gas reserves in the country as on 1.4.2003 have been estimated to be of the order of 0.9 billion tonnes. Fertilizer industry is a major consumer of natural gas and accounts for nearly 38% of total consumption of gas. The average actual supply of gas to fertilizer units during 2002-03 was about 21.54 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD).

No assessment about the duration for which the gas reserves will last has been made as it is dependent on several factors such as trends of production and consumption, new gas finds, alternative sources of energy etc.

(b) to (e): The exploration of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in the country is atassessment stage. According to the current estimates, the CBM resources in the country are of the order of 1000 billion cubic meters.

Preliminary studies and Research & Development activities have indicated thepresence of CBM in the coal mines situated in the districts of Burdwan, Purulia and Bankura in West Bengal and in the districts of Dhanbad, Hazaribagh, Giridih, Bokaro,Ranchi and Palamu in Jharkhand. For exploration and production of CBM,Government have signed contracts for three blocks each in Jharkhand and West Bengal. The exploration of CBM in the country is at assessment stage and itsutilisation in fertilizer sector can be made only when its commerciality is established.